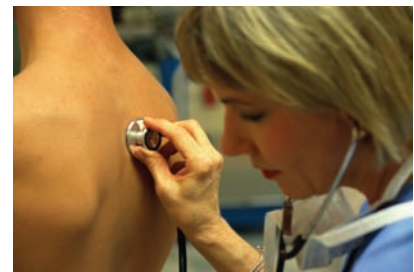


Sole Community Hospital



A *HOSPITAL IS ELIGIBLE TO BE CLASSIFIED AS A SOLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL (SCH) if it is located more than 35 miles from other like hospitals or it is located in a rural area AND meets at least ONE of the following three conditions:*

- 1) The hospital is located between 25 and 35 miles from other like hospitals AND meets ONE of the following criteria:
 - No more than 25 percent of residents who become hospital inpatients or no more than 25 percent of the Medicare beneficiaries who become hospital inpatients in the hospital's service area are admitted to other like hospitals located within a 35-mile radius of the hospital or, if larger, within its service area
 - The hospital has fewer than 50 beds and would meet the 25 percent criterion above were it not for the fact that some beneficiaries or residents were forced to seek specialized care outside of the service area due to the unavailability of necessary specialty services at the hospital or
 - Other like hospitals are inaccessible for at least 30 days in each of two out of three years because of local topography or prolonged severe weather conditions
- 2) The hospital is located between 15 and 25 miles from other like hospitals but because of local topography or periods of prolonged severe weather conditions, the other like hospitals are inaccessible for at least 30 days in each of two out of three years.
- 3) Because of distance, posted speed limits, and predictable weather conditions, the travel time between the hospital and the nearest hospital is at least 45 minutes.



Sole Community Hospital Payments

Payments to SCHs are paid based on the highest of:

- The Federal rate applicable to the hospital;
- The updated hospital-specific rate based on fiscal year (FY) 1982 costs per discharge;
- The updated hospital-specific rate based on FY 1987 costs per discharge;
- For purposes of payment to SCHs for which the FY 1996 hospital-specific rate yields the greatest aggregate payment, payments for discharges during FYs 2001, 2002, and 2003 are based on a blend of the FY 1996 hospital-specific rate and the greater of the Federal rate or the updated FY 1982 or FY 1987 hospital-specific rate; or
- For discharges beginning in FY 2004, the hospital specific rate is 100 percent of the FY 1996 hospital-specific rate.

HELPFUL RURAL HEALTH WEBSITES

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES' WEBSITES

CMS Contact Information Directory

www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/contacts/

CMS Forms

www.cms.hhs.gov/CMSForms/CMSForms/list.asp#TopOfPage

CMS Mailing Lists

www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/mailinglists/

Critical Access Hospital Provider Center

www.cms.hhs.gov/center/cah.asp

Federally Qualified Health Centers Provider Center

www.cms.hhs.gov/center/fqhc.asp

Hospital Provider Center

www.cms.hhs.gov/center/hospital.asp

HPSA/PSA (Physician Bonuses)

www.cms.hhs.gov/HPSAPSAPhysicianBonuses/

Internet-Only Manuals

www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp#TopOfPage

MLN Matters Articles

www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/

Medicare Learning Network

www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/

Medicare Modernization Update

www.cms.hhs.gov/MMAUpdate/

Physician's Resource Partner Center

www.cms.hhs.gov/center/physician.asp

Regulations & Guidance

www.cms.hhs.gov/home/regsguidance.asp

Rural Health Clinic Provider Center

www.cms.hhs.gov/center/rural.asp

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' WEBSITES

Administration on Aging

www.aoa.gov

American Hospital Association Section for Small or Rural Hospitals

www.aha.org/aha/key_issues/rural/index.html

Health Resources and Services Administration

www.hrsa.gov

National Association of Community Health Centers

www.nachc.org

National Association of Rural Health Clinics

www.narhc.org

National Rural Health Association

www.nrharural.org

Rural Assistance Center

www.raconline.org

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The Medicare Learning Network (MLN) is the brand name for official CMS educational products and information for Medicare fee-for-service providers. For additional information visit the Medicare Learning Network's web page at www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/ on the CMS website. February 2006 ICN: 006399